## The Messenger



April 2021

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear St. John's,

As a visual learner, I have always found Holy Week to be overwhelming. For seven days, I experience emotional overload as the images of Christ's last days are played out in worship and song. Our journey begins with the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with the waving of palms and shouts of Hosanna. The mood is ecstatic and contagious. But it doesn't last. Within days, I picture Jesus sitting around a table with his friends. With a command to love one another he shows them with an incredible act of humility. He stoops down and washes their tired, dirty, sore feet. I then envision the bread and wine he offers being passed around the table one disciple at a time. He begs of them to remember him through the sharing of a meal. He knows their memories will have to see them through.

Next, I imagine Jesus' struggle in the garden as he lays his heart out to his father. I see the crown of thorns piercing his forehead. I see Pontius Pilate trying to wash his hands of the task that is set before him. And then, as if we didn't know what was coming, the image of the cross looms over us casting the shadow of death as far as our eyes can see. It is dark, and tragic, and inconceivable to imagine our Messiah taking his last breath as he is mocked, tortured, and doubted by the very people he loves.

Although all these images are moving and deserve our attention, there is one that cuts me even deeper. It comes from a simple, yet profound saying. "Nails didn't hold Jesus to the cross. Love did." Holy Week is the journey of a man in love with God's people and the sacrifices he was willing to make to show us that love. Love is what brought Jesus to Jerusalem and love is what delivered him from the power of death. The empty tomb, the greatest image of Christianity, is made possible because love always triumphs over evil. Light always casts out darkness. Life, with Christ, always defeats death. In the end, love always wins.

This month, I invite you to pay attention to the images of Holy Week. Take the necessary time to really reflect on Jesus' last days through worship, song, and prayer. Perhaps you'll see something you've never noticed before. Perhaps you will encounter the empty tomb with fresh eyes and discover a world already in the midst of being resurrected.

I remain faithfully yours,

Amanda+

#### **April Highlights:**

- Pg 2 Deacon's Message
- Pg 3 Holy Week Events
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- Pg 6 Financial Summary
- Pg 7 Global Partnership Challenge
- Pg 7 Capital Campaign
- Pg 8 Youth Outing
- Pg 9 Women's Group
- Pg 10 Men's Gathering

#### Weekly

Sundays:

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite: I

10:00AM Holy Eucharist Rite: II

#### Wednesdays:

12:00 PM Healing Service with Holy Eucharist

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April Birthdays:
April Way
John Faust
Maria Sauder
Aliya Scheetz
Kevin Henry
Owen Wendler
Michael Stank
Bill Gross
Angela Cuthbert
Janice Henry
Glenn Miller
Ronald Barton
Eric Waskowicz
Sandra Grove
Hilary Becker
C. Weaver-Gelzer
Susan Dodge
Ronald Linton
Heidi Litzke
Gwynneth Mann
Drigan Lee
Rob Williams
Sophia Brown
Robert Hogg Leslie Tahsler
Ty Humphrey
Claire Thompson
Margaret Lee

#### **April Anniversaries:**

John & Barbara Graeter	12
Joe & April Way	19
Bill & Jill Gross	20
Bob & Mary Ellen Kilp	
22	
Robert & Margaret Springer	24
Mike & Phyllis Gbur	30

#### Continued prayers for our Homebound:

Margaret Crothers, Ellen Keller, Fritz Lawrence, Don Lovett, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney

Military: Brian Hobbins, Laurel Hobbins, Alex Kelly, Kirby Kinderwater, Kyle Kinderwater, Joshua Watkins, Cameron Watts

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE DEACON**

Dear friends,

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I don't know if you're anything like me, but when God calls me to serve, most of the time, my heart starts pumping and my toes tingle with indescribable joy. That is most of the time. The rest of the time? Well, God has thrown me a few unexpected curve balls over the years that would make Pedro Martinez look like a rookie. Rather than joy and passion, I experienced fear and confusion. "Really Lord? You can't possibly be calling me to do *that*." And yet, it was those divine curveballs which became my biggest game changers.

While passion often motivates us to do something, fear can cause us to dig in our heels and resist an opportunity to serve in a new way. Ultimately, we need to discern if we are following God's leading and not just our emotions alone. It may very well be that God is speaking right into our passion. It may also be that God has other plans for us to wait on. Either way, there is no fail to discernment because we give ourselves the opportunity to open our hearts further to Love and grow in our walk with Jesus.

Sisters and brothers, I invite you into a discernment process for prison ministry. Prison ministry has many layers and there are many paths to serve. Every loving act is a holy act. Specifically, I humbly ask you to consider being on a possible St. John's worship team to provide worship services in Lancaster County Prison and/or become a volunteer chaplain to meet with individuals one on one in the prison. Of course, this would not happen until everyone is safe from Covid, including those within the prison. However, while we wait for that glorious day, we can use this time to discern if this is something God is calling you to.

If you believe there is a possibility God is calling you to serve in this way, I offer the following to aid in your discernment: I ask you to pray. Pray to our loving God for clarity and direction and pray for our incarcerated brothers and sisters. Secondly, pray for the families who have a loved one who is incarcerated or who is serving in the prison. Families on the outside struggle too especially, children. Sometimes if we pray for a community, we aren't accustomed to praying for, insights are revealed to us. Thirdly, if you have the slightest curiosity please email me: <a href="mailto:scatigano@gmail.com">scatigano@gmail.com</a> or call 717 799 9764. If enough people contact me, I will hold a Q&A Zoom & safely distanced parish hall meeting. Fourthly, we have two phenomenal pastors and wise vestry leaders who speak into our lives. Their insights are invaluable. Finally, meditate on Matthew 25:36. Ministry to the incarcerated is personable, treating them as human beings created in God's image rather than problems waiting to be solved.

It continues to be an incredible blessing in my life to serve as your deacon. It is a privilege to see the Holy Spirit ministering to you and through you as you continue to serve, in all amazing ways, the timeless truth of God's love!

Gratefully, Deacon Stacey



B. SE. S

play some games and end with an Easter egg hunt!

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### SUNDAY, APRIL 4 @ 6:30AM

JOIN US FOR AN OUTDOOR SERVICE AS WE CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION THROUGH MUSIC, SACRAMENT, AND PRAYER!

ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH 2453 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, pa 17601

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR MASK!

#### **VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH**

Decisions require the ability to make choices. Leslie Morgan led us in devotions by summarizing that lesson from Ray Stedman. We must admit that we are followers and work to find our leader. We should wait for the peace of God and move based on it.

The primary concern of the March Vestry meeting was to deal with our rental properties on Concord Street. We have owned one property for about 20 years and the other for a much longer time. Ownership involves time, finance and other resource commitments that have sometimes distracted us from our mission. The Vestry is in process of determining what the best choice is in dealing with these two properties. We can sell, continue to rent, or keep the properties for another use.

Selling the properties would bring us instant money that we could apply to our Capital Campaign or enhance our investment funds. It would also relieve us of our maintenance costs and allow our Rector and staff to stop acting as landlords. Conversely, we would have no control over challenging neighbors, and we would have to remove our tenants before the sale.

Renting the properties gives us an income stream and that ability to have a relationship with the tenants. However, we would continue to have the landlord responsibilities. We would have to maintain the properties and pay taxes on them.

We could keep the properties and use them for Seminary/College students or Refugee families. It gives us future expansion possibilities. However, they are not ADA compliant and have been a "money pit" in the past.

Currently, we are getting some additional information that we need to make an informed decision. These include what it would cost to renovate the properties? What is the current sales value? What are our future management plans? How do the properties fit into our mission? How would we invest the proceeds if we sell?

An ad hoc committee will research these questions (an others) and report back at the April meeting. The Vestry will then take a month to discern the best course of action and decide in May.

The Vestry reviewed The Rector's plans for reopening and agreed that she had the correct safety protocols in place. She had contacted the appropriate ministry leaders to assure that the services will be held when proper staffing is available.

We reviewed the 2020 Parochial Report that reflected our mission and ministry results. It included our efforts to carry on during the pandemic. It also reflected our work regarding Racial Justice and Reconciliation.

Our mission and ministry work is only possible because of the strong financial support of our parishioners. February was a routine month in that our income exceeded our expenses by \$6,000. We typically have a positive balance at this time of year that prepares us for the leaner months in the summer. The Capital campaign balance is down to \$161,000. Our goal is to pay this off this year and be debt free going forward.

Decisions require the ability to make choices. The Vestry needs your support, prayerfully and financially to make the right decisions.

#### February 2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

February income exceeded expenses by \$5,874 thanks to strong operating pledge receipts. Some previous year pledges and funeral income also contributed. Expenses were mostly in line with budget. Our year-to -date surplus is now about \$31,000. This exceeds where we were this time last year, primarily due to the one-month (COVID-related) forgiveness of Diocesan fair share and rector pension premium that were both realized in January.

#### C. Wear

Treasurer

#### St. John's Episcopal

Operating Income Stmt February 2021 Results Cash Basis in \$000's

					Year to	
		February			Date	
	2021A	2020A	2021B	2021A	2020A	2021B
Income						
Contributions	\$43.2	\$28.0	\$33.6	\$86.2	\$93.6	\$67.3
Draw from Invest-						
ments	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$3.7	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$7.4
Designated Gifts	\$0.0	\$16.0	\$0.0	\$11.0	\$16.0	\$0.0
Other Income	\$2.6	\$0.8	\$5.8	\$6.2	\$2.5	\$11.7
Jubilee	\$0.4	\$5.4	\$4.9	\$2.5	\$10.6	\$9.8
Total Income	\$46.3	\$50.2	\$48.1	\$106.0	\$122.7	\$96.1
Expense						
Personnel	\$22.3	\$28.9	\$24.4	\$43.7		\$48.7
Property	\$7.1	\$8.6	\$7.0	\$14.6		\$14.1
Outreach	\$7.2	\$7.0	\$6.6	\$7.3		\$13.3
Other Ministries	\$3.1	\$2.5	\$3.1	\$8.2		\$6.3
Jubilee	\$0.8	\$2.9	\$5.0	\$1.1	\$8.1	\$10.1
Total Expenses	\$40.4	\$49.8	\$46.2	\$74.9	\$100.5	\$92.4
Net Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$5.9	\$0.3	\$1.9	\$31.1	\$22.2	\$3.7

#### April 2021

#### **GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE** I AM, WE ARE...ONE WORLD: HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE



"There is no 'them" and 'us'. There is only us. "Fr. Greg Boyle

In this time of reflection, in our present world, there has never been a more important time to

be united and remember that we are ALL God's children - NO exceptions!

#### **April 4th: Easter**

Blessings to ALL - "I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though they die they will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." - John 11:26

#### **April 11th**

"Rosa Parks sitting on the bus helped immigrants get seats on a plane..." Caring and kind acts to our brothers and sisters from anywhere, any color, any nationality is caring for God's children. It's what we are asked to do by the Father of us ALL.

#### **April 18th**

"All it takes for evil to succeed is for good people to do nothing." That isn't who we are at St. John's - take care of your neighbor - with food drop donations, prayers, smiles, shoes, Thank You's.

#### April 25th: April 26th National Pretzel Day

The word "pretzel" is a German word meaning "little arms". They were first made in the 5th century as a monk taught children to make them as arms in prayer to share with those less fortunate. In these days of not being able to share hugs with everyone, think about making the cross armed practice, saying "pretzel" and a smile to allow those in our midst to feel our caring.

#### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS HONORING THE PAST... PREPARING FOR A DEBT-FREE FUTURE

The entire process of renovating, providing accessibility, expanding the columbarium, and adding a welcoming entrance to our church home has been to prepare St. John's for the future. An important part of this process will take place in the very near future -- the final payment of our construction loan in October. Our parish family has supported this initiative with enthusiasm and generosity over the past several years to get us to within \$61,059 of being debt free. A number of parishioners – both new donors and others who have chosen to exceed their original pledges – have continued to make contributions to bring us closer to our goal.

In the next month, our entire parish family will receive a letter inviting them to contribute to this exciting debt-free goal. As we enjoy the benefits of our enhancements and additions, let's enjoy

equally the satisfaction of knowing we have fulfilled our responsibility to pay for them.

This chart indicates what we need to retire the debt and what has been received to date. We invite you to consider how your gift will help reduce the final \$61,059 balance to ensure a debt-free future for our beloved St. John's.

	Goal	to Retire Debt	
·	Gifts Needed	Total Needed for Suc- cess	Pledges/Gifts Rec'd: 3/21/21
	I @ \$12,000	\$12,000	\$26,173
	2 @ \$7,500	\$15,000	\$10,000
1	3 @ \$5,000	\$15,000	\$5,000
	12 @ \$2,500	\$30,000	\$5,000
	20 @ \$1,000	\$20,000	\$7,000
	40 @ \$500	\$20,000	\$4,318
	24 @ \$250	\$6,000	\$750
	Other	\$2,000	\$700
	Total	\$120,000	\$58,941

#### April 2021

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#### ST. JOHN'S CHARITY AUCTION REPORT

The Stewardship Committee proudly announces that we were able to raise just over \$3000 from our auctioned items. This project was a great success that we intend to repeat. We will also be running the Yard Give this summer, so consider saving your items for this project as well.





The selection of items was varied and interesting. We had only 10 out of 169 lots that did not sell. The items with the highest bids are pictured. All donations were greatly appreciated.





**YOUTH OUTING** 

On Sunday, April 25, at 1:00 PM, we will be meeting at the Holtwood Recreation Area to hike the <u>Kelly's Run Trail</u>.

All are invited to join as we explore this gem of a natural area, right in our back yard. The conditions on the 3.7 mile loop trail are variable based on recent weather, so there may be some slippery rocks



Patrick Morgan

AUCTION SERVICES LLC

and shallow water crossing on the lower portion near the stream. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes.

Bring water and insect repellant (ticks are already active).

For those that want a less challenging hike, there are shorter, smoother trail options available, as well as pavilion space and open area if you just want to get outside.

Directions in Google Maps, search for <u>Holtwood Recreation Area</u>. For more info about the trail <u>click here</u>. Questions? Contact Mike Williams (<u>hmwilliams@gmail.com</u>)

#### ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# WONER'S ZOON GATHERING

DATE: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 @ 7PM (EST) Join the Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/96473248358?pwd=SGx2ZUpLY0pBWUdLYmVnbi9FT1FpUT09 Meeting ID: 964 7324 8358 Password: 336465 For more information, contact Karen DiPace @ karen.dipace@gmail.com

#### SAVE THE DATE



On Tuesday, May 4th, the women of St. John's will be hosting Trivia Night.

Stay tuned for more details!

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St. John's Episcopal Church

# SPRING CLEAN UP

Saturday, April 24th Rain Date: Saturday, May 1st

For more information, please contact Webb Cook at webb.cook@yahoo.com

#### CALLING ALL MEN OF ST. JOHN'S:

If you have never been to a Men's Gathering, now is a great time.

Come meet some other guys from the parish. Reconnect with those you have not seen in awhile. Make some new friends.

If you have any questions, please contact: Joe Way at way@mac.com or John Knouse at johnknouse@hotmail.com

# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WASKOWICZ FARM, 84 WEAVER ROAD, DENVER PA 17517 QUESTIONS: CONTACT JOE WAY OR JOHN KNOUSE



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APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Bells playing PALM SUNDAY Youth Meanday School (Zoom) 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II	29 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP)	30 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:00 PM 5:30 PM Food Pantry 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM VH Dance (Auditorium) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP)	31 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live)	1 MAUNDY THURSDAY 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food 7:00 FM Maundy 7:00 Service Thursday Service	2 GOOD FRIDAY Rector's Day Off Crose (Outdoors) 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP) 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Children's Easter Party
4 Birthdays & Anniversaries EASTER 6:30 AM Joint Sunrise Service (St. Edward's) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II	5 EASTER MONDAY Office Closed 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP)	6 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Martha's Ministry (2:00 M) - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP)	<b>7</b> 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live)	8 2:00 PM Clergy Council 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Antry 7:00 PM Handbell Practice (Auditorium)	9 Rector's Day Off	<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)
11 Chara playing 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I (In-person) 9:00 AM Sunday School (Zoom) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (In-person & Online) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom)	<b>12</b> 12:00 РМ - 1:00 РМ NA (AP)	13 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM Captal Campaign Meeting (Zoom) 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry Committee (Zoom) 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP) 7:00 PM VWomen's Gathering (Zoom)	14 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live)	<b>15</b> 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Handbell Practice (Auditorium)	<b>16</b> Rector's Day Off	<b>17</b> 9:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)
18 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I (In-person) 9:00 AM Sunday School (Zoom) 0:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (In-person & Online) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom) 12:00 PM Vestry Meeting	19 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP)	20 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:00 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM VH Dance (Auditorium) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP)	21 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) P12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live)	22 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Handbell Practice (Auditorium)	23 Rector's Day Off	24 Spring Clean Up 9:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP) 10:00 AM Voyagers (PH)
25 MESSENGER DUE 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I (In-person) 9:00 AM Sunday School (Zoom) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (In-person & Online) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom) 11:00 PM Youth Event: Hiking at Kelly's Run	26 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 7:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting	27 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:00 AM Staff Meeting Pantry 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM VH Dance (Auditorium) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP)	28 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) P12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live)	29 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Handbell Practice (Auditonium) 7:00 PM Men's Gathering: Bonfire (Waskowicz Farm)	<b>30</b> Rector's Day Off	1 8:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP) 10:00 AM End of Life Planning Meeting





St. John's Episcopal Church 321 W. Chestnut St. Lancaster, PA 17603

